

## SPIES ROB VOYAGERS ABOARD ROTTERDAM

Americans Arriving Minus  
Papers Lay Thefts to  
British Sleuths.

### FIERY RECTOR COMES IN

The Holland-America steamship Rotterdam, which came in yesterday from Rotterdam and Falmouth with the return passengers who were willing to risk. They had something to talk to the study here at midnight on Friday and left most of the ship's company pretty well awake until early yesterday.

One of the themes of gossip was "spies." This time the spying was attributed to Britons who have acquired a habit of sailing on the Dutch ships from Rotterdam to Falmouth and to New York, maybe.

Miss Caroline Wilson of the Chicago Tribune, who left the Ford missionaries and went to Germany, boarded the Rotterdam at Rotterdam. She had written in longhand an official statement from Berlin about the German situation and other articles. When she returned to her station, while the liner was between Rotterdam and Falmouth, she could not find her manuscript.

Who stole the papers? Miss Wilson said she did not know, but they might have been seized by British spies.

### American Papers Stolen.

F. P. Foote of Chicago, representing the house of Price, Scott & Co., who have never been out of the British Isles while on business for his firm, also seemed to take some stock in the rumor of British spies. One night on the trip from Falmouth Mr. Foote went back to his stateroom from dinner and found his papers in a pocket were his passports, business letters and a group photograph taken on a preceding trip. He went on deck in an effort to find them, but he found that some one had taken everything from the dinner table.

To prevent the concealment of anything aboard the liner on her way from Rotterdam to Falmouth, Capt. Baron was ordered to examine the papers of all passengers and to throw overboard letters, papers and photographs found in any of the ship's public rooms. The object of this order is to prevent the British from getting into the hands of American material that would be of benefit to the British or the German cause.

Capt. Baron would venture no opinion on the British spy theories that stirred the ship for a time.

Charles Spaulding, United States commissioner, who went to Germany to bring home Max Harnstein, a German anti-submarine officer and leader in the German navy, had a special permit to travel on the Rotterdam. He was accompanied by his wife and two children. He was accompanied by his wife and two children.

German Harnstein With Hinton.

Mr. Harnstein was undisturbed by the preceding theories. He was undisturbed by the preceding theories. He was undisturbed by the preceding theories.

Why Italian Seized German Ships.

Mr. Wittenburg said he understood the reason for the seizure by the Italian navy of German ships in the Adriatic was to relieve the freight situation, thus relieving the cost of coal and other necessities. The world's shipping, Mr. Wittenburg pointed out, is now almost entirely in the hands of the Germans.

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## BRYAN DINES WITH FOES OF THE PRESIDENT TO-DAY

Continued from First Page.

The Rules Committee will not end the troubles of the President's supporters.

There is much reluctance among Democrats as well as Republicans to support a special rule. From the sentiment on the armed ships issue and many members, for fear their vote might be misinterpreted, have refused to go on record either for or against tabling the McNamee resolution with an opportunity to explain their attitude.

The defeat of the rule appears to be the gravest possibility the Administration faces must meet. In this situation it might fail to meet the President's demand to take the most conspicuous part in giving the President a vote of confidence, at least in making such a vote possible.

On a motion for the "previous question" on the special rule, however, it is expected that the Republicans will carry it. The House will then vote on the most difficult bridge to cross, if the Administration leaders are to gain their point in shutting off debate and amendment.

Danger Point for Wilson.

If the "previous question" should be defeated, the parliamentary fabric built up to aid the President will topple with crash and the rule will be open to discussion and possibility of amendment to defeat the purpose for which it was framed.

Democratic leaders have sought assistance of support from the Republicans, but have not obtained it. Nor is there any prospect that the breach in their own party ranks is being closed.

No change in the situation in the House was reported, according to Representative Flood, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The Democratic leaders are still adhering to their purpose of bringing out a special rule to-morrow and table the McNamee resolution on Tuesday, if a vote can be reached by that time.

It is likely to be a field day for the Democrats. The device of taking a "recess" yesterday instead of adjournment, and resolutions in point cannot prevent discussion of the question, but the "recess" will prevent the McNamee resolution of warning, or like measure, being laid before the Senate to-morrow.

On Tuesday Senator Stone of Missouri, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is expected to bring forward a resolution to table the McNamee resolution on Tuesday, if a vote can be reached by that time.

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## STAY OFF ARMED SHIPS.

Congressman Fitzgerald Says That  
Is His Own View at Least.

"I believe American citizens ought to stay off armed vessels. I believe this is the sentiment of the country. It is my opinion that the House will vote for the warning resolution."

In these words Congressman John J. Fitzgerald of Brooklyn expressed his self yesterday to a reporter for THE SUN on the McNamee resolution, which provides that the government shall warn Americans to stay off armed ships of the belligerents in the European war.

Congressman Fitzgerald was not willing to support the House Democratic majority in New York City would do when the time comes to vote on the resolution. Congressman Fitzgerald, from Tom Foley's district, stands with the President. He is not in favor of warning Americans against sailing on armed ships and believes the resolution will be defeated. Other Congressmen from New York City are in favor of the resolution.

Congressman Fitzgerald would not say whether he intended to state his views on the floor. He said there are various ways in which the warning resolution can be brought before the House for a vote. There can be opportunity for Mr. Fitzgerald to state his views on the floor. He said there are various ways in which the warning resolution can be brought before the House for a vote.

Congressman Fitzgerald denied that many New York Democratic Congressmen were in New York on Saturday. There were only three absent—Lott, who is at Palm Beach, Dooling, who is sick, and Mr. House, who was in Brooklyn attending a meeting.

"None of the New York Congressmen left until it was definitely settled that the warning resolution would not come up for decision on that day," said Congressman Fitzgerald. "I was the last to leave and I ought to know."

Mr. Fitzgerald, who is the dean of the New York Congressmen, must not be taken to mean that he is against the warning resolution. He is not. In this particular matter, if he is against it, I think our people should be warned so far as possible against involving themselves in any difficulties with any other country. He is not in favor of Americans using the armed ships of the warring nations.

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## COL. HOUSE BACK; TO REPORT TO-DAY

President's Envoy Says Euro-  
pean Antagonism to Amer-  
ica Is Overdrawn.

### SPEEDS TO SEE WILSON

Col. Edward M. House, confidential envoy of President Wilson, returned yesterday from the European mission on which he departed a little more than two months ago. He gave no indication whatever of the results of his trip or the impressions he gained. He met all questions with his habitual cheerful evasion, explaining that he planned to report immediately to the President and could not consider making any statement until that was done. He left at midnight for Washington.

"I have found that the antagonism to America in Europe is by no means so great as has been reported," he said when asked what he had learned of the situation of the United States abroad. "That is all I am going to say now, and I am not going to say anything until after I go to Washington."

Col. House arrived on the Holland-America liner Rotterdam, with Mrs. House, who accompanied him on his mission. Through instructions from Washington a coast guard cutter was placed at their disposal, and Col. and Mrs. House were taken from the liner some distance beyond quarantine. Every precaution was taken to keep the Colonel's plans for his stay in this city secret, even to landing him at a pier on the East River, where automobiles were waiting to whisk him away.

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## SEAL BRYAN'S LIPS ON PREPAREDNESS

Not Permitted to Present  
Anti-Defence Views in Ad-  
dress at Poughkeepsie.

### TALKS IN BROOKLYN ALSO

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., March 5.—Addressing an audience of 3,000 at Cohen's Theatre here this afternoon, William J. Bryan surprised his hearers when he refrained from making an attack against the advocates of preparedness, but struck close to his subject. "The Making of a Man."

In his address the Colonel faulted that he did not give expression to his anti-preparedness sentiments, however. It was learned that the committee which arranged for his address asked Mr. Bryan what he expected to talk about. He replied that he was anxious to speak against the preparedness movement. The committee promptly notified him that they did not wish it and insisted upon his selecting another subject.

Mr. Bryan's address was a series of anecdotes arranged by the Young Men's Christian Association. There was a big laugh when John Schullie, head of a local crane juice company, presented Mr. Bryan with a bottle of grape juice.

Col. Bryan in Brooklyn.

William Jennings Bryan swayed his audience from laughter to applause in his address of preparedness last evening at the Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Poughkeepsie. He sought to reduce to the arguments of the preparedness group and to excite laughter.

But on two occasions, when different orators spoke the name of "Champion Clark," there was uproarious cheering for the Massachusetts leader, another also, following the mention of Senator Bryan's name. The Rev. Father Austin Fleming of St. Joseph, which is in Speaker Charles State, announced the first outbreak of applause for Senator Clark when he said that "although New York did not treat Champion Clark well at Baltimore, a second and change may be afforded to Mr. Clark on the occasion of his visit to New York."

Second only to the quality and quantity of applause which greeted expressed his belief that Americans should stay off armed ships of the belligerents in the European war. The declaration of principles adopted last night, or the "armed vessels of any belligerent" which, if shown up by the German or other vessels, would result in American complications. Simultaneously the convention in its declaration denounced German interference with American mails.

It was left to a delegate from far off and thoroughly landlocked Montana, John A. Flinn, owner and editor of the Butte Independent, to speak in favor of national preparedness. The convention seemed, if anyone counted for anything, to be solidly on the side of preparedness.

Judge Ryan is Chairman.

Ex-Judge O'Neil Ryan of St. Louis, formerly on the United States Circuit Court bench, was permanent chairman. Seated on the stage also was Victor Herbert, the composer, who was president of the Federal Union of "Preparedness" in the organization which is an outgrowth of the convention in place of Supreme Court Justice John W. Giff, who has been elected president on Saturday night. Mr. Ryan, a broker, who spoke on England's position, said that "today the high volunteers have saved Ireland," and that Ireland was "an abode with a new spirit of hope and of confidence."

Mr. Ryan left for Washington on a midnight train. Before departing he refused to make any comment on the present political situation.

Hot Coffee Burns Kid's Child.

Stamford, Conn., March 5.—Edward Headard, 4 years old, died this afternoon in the Stamford Hospital from the effects of burns sustained last night when he overturned a hot coffee.

Col. House arrived on the Holland-America liner Rotterdam, with Mrs. House, who accompanied him on his mission. Through instructions from Washington a coast guard cutter was placed at their disposal, and Col. and Mrs. House were taken from the liner some distance beyond quarantine. Every precaution was taken to keep the Colonel's plans for his stay in this city secret, even to landing him at a pier on the East River, where automobiles were waiting to whisk him away.

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## IRISH DELEGATES WARN U. S. TO WATCH BRITAIN

Convention Ends Session With Declaration of Loyalty  
to America—John Redmond Hissed and Champ Clark  
Applauded—Plea for Preparedness Approved.

The 2,000 or more men and women delegates of Irish birth or descent from all over the United States, who on Saturday convened at the Hotel Astor to discuss themselves, among other things, on their attitude toward England in the present war, brought their convention to a close at the Cohen Theatre yesterday with a session of oratory which lasted without interruption from 2 o'clock in the afternoon until 8 in the evening.

Toward the end of the six hour session, all devoted to speech making, except for a few vocal solos here and there, the afternoon, the convention unanimously adopted a 5,000 word declaration of principles which combined a plea that the United States refrain from entering alliances with foreign countries in the present struggle or at any time, and a denunciation of England for her treatment of Ireland in the past and at present and for her attitude toward American seafarers and American shipping and commerce since war was declared.

Mrs. Florence M. Ryan, of Boston, Redmond, the Irish member of Parliament who is urging Irishmen to enlist in the British colors, aroused a whole host of hisses from his too frequent allusions to the name of "Champion Clark." Hisses greeted the name also of the Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan, the English born Jesuit, son of a British army officer, for charging that the United States was "a land of the devil." Vaughan's activities for his own war-ravaged country. There was another storm of hisses at the mention of the name of Joseph H. Choate, because, said the speaker, Mr. Choate "hypnotizes the King and the United States at every Poughkeepsie dinner."

But on two occasions, when different orators spoke the name of "Champion Clark," there was uproarious cheering for the Massachusetts leader, another also, following the mention of Senator Bryan's name. The Rev. Father Austin Fleming of St. Joseph, which is in Speaker Charles State, announced the first outbreak of applause for Senator Clark when he said that "although New York did not treat Champion Clark well at Baltimore, a second and change may be afforded to Mr. Clark on the occasion of his visit to New York."

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## concludes with hopes for Ireland's freedom and a plea in the congress of nations of the world.

The Rev. Dr. Livingston, head of the committee that drew up the declaration of principles, said that the convention didn't "presume to speak for those who do not agree" with the delegates, but he believed the declaration worthy of the attention of the civilized world. And the declaration, added by Joseph Smith, who spoke next, "regards of a declaration of international law" was "going out broadcast and was going to get to England."

Right to Express Views.

Mr. Smith, Justice Davidson and many other speakers dwelt upon the right of the delegates to express their views at this time and any other, inasmuch as the Irish and women had been wronged and fought and died for America from colonial days to the present and that while Americans of Irish birth or blood have been always in America, Irish men and the time "favored" they are in a better position, said the speakers, to understand European questions than Americans who are born of American parents.

Justice Davidson capped a laugh when turning toward Joseph H. Choate,